

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 052114Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1427

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USLOSACLANT

USNMR

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T USNATO 4155

E.O. 11652: GDS-12-31-81

TAGS: MCAF, NATO, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN DEFENSE DECISIONS

1. AMBASSADOR MENZIES (CANADA) INFORMED DPC SEPTEMBER 5 OF RECENT CANADIAN DECISION, NOT YET ANNOUNCED TO PUBLIC, TO SET A FIRM FIGURE FOR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS, WITH TWO CONCOMITANT NAVAL FORCE REDUCTIONS. PURPOSE OF DECISION IS TO GIVE FIRM FINANCIAL BASE FOR MID-RANGE DEFENSE PLANNING AND TO INCREASE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES.

2. CANADIAN DEFENSE BUDGET, USING AS A BASE 2,143 BILLION DOLLARS OF EXPENDITURES, WILL BE INCREASED OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS BY 7 PERCENT ANNUALLY BEGINNING WITH FY74-75. IT WILL RISE TO OVER \$3 BILLION BY 1978-79. COMMENT: CLARIFYING INFORMATION WILL BE SENT WHEN CANADIAN PAPER BECOMES AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 6.

3. CANADA WILL DISPOSE OF 4 CATEGORY C RESERVE DESTROYERS, WILL REMOVE ASW EQUIPMENT FROM TRACKER MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT, AND WILL MAINTAIN TRACKER FLEET AT LEVEL OF 16.

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4. AMBASSADOR MENZIES NOTED THAT CANADA HAD INFORMED US OF ITS INTENTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 4, HAD DISCUSSED THESE ACTIONS WITH ADMIRAL COUSINS (SACLANT) ON SEPTEMBER 4, AND WOULD BRIEF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 6.

5. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE. MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE EXPECTS TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 20.

6. COMMENT: CANADIAN RESPONSE TO DPQ(72) INDICATED A REDUCTION OF TRACKER MPA FROM 28 AT END-74 TO 8 AT END-75. RUMSFELD.

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